



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission

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Virginia's Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate Declined 0.1 Percentage Point in August to 2.8 Percent

— Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was up 1,200 jobs
between July 2019 and August 2019—

RICHMOND— Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** unemployment rate decreased 0.1 percentage point in August to 2.8 percent, which was unchanged from a year ago. In August, the labor force expanded for the fourteenth consecutive month by 14,204, or 0.3 percent to set a new record high of 4,404,492, as the number of unemployed decreased by 3,551. Household employment increased by 17,755 to set a new high of 4,281,899. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which was unchanged at 3.7 percent.

Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** nonfarm employment increased by 1,200 jobs in August to 4,041,900. July's total nonfarm employment was revised upward 10,000, adding to that month's strong job numbers. In August, private sector employment increased by 1,000 jobs to 3,317,600, while public sector payrolls increased by 200 jobs to 724,300.

From July 2019 to August 2019, **seasonally adjusted** employment increased in eight major industry divisions and decreased in the other three. The largest job gain during August occurred in **leisure and hospitality** with a gain of 1,100 jobs to 418,600. The second largest over-the-month gain occurred in **miscellaneous services** with a gain of 800 jobs to 204,000. Other employment gains were **manufacturing** (500 jobs) to 246,800 and **professional and business services** (400 jobs) to 760,900. The largest loss during August occurred in **trade and transportation** (-1,100 jobs) to 651,300. The second largest loss was **information** (-900 jobs) to 63,000. A third employment loss was **finance** (-400 jobs). For total **government**, gains occurred in federal government (200 jobs) and local government (100 jobs), while state government decreased by 100 jobs.

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Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Employment			July 2019 to August 2019		August 2018 to August 2019	
	August 2019	July 2019	August 2018	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	4,041,900	4,040,700	4,005,200	1,200	0.0%	36,700	0.9%
Total Private Sector	3,317,600	3,316,600	3,282,100	1,000	0.0%	35,500	1.1%
<i>Goods-Producing</i>	457,500	456,700	446,500	800	0.2%	11,000	2.5%
Mining	8,200	8,000	7,900	200	2.5%	300	3.8%
Construction	202,500	202,400	198,100	100	0.0%	4,400	2.2%
Manufacturing	246,800	246,300	240,500	500	0.2%	6,300	2.6%
<i>Service-Providing</i>	3,584,400	3,584,000	3,558,700	400	0.0%	25,700	0.7%
Private Service-Providing	2,860,100	2,859,900	2,835,600	200	0.0%	24,500	0.9%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	651,300	652,400	658,900	-1,100	-0.2%	-7,600	-1.2%
Information	63,000	63,900	67,200	-900	-1.4%	-4,200	-6.3%
Finance	208,900	209,300	208,200	-400	-0.2%	700	0.3%
Professional and Business Services	760,900	760,500	751,200	400	0.1%	9,700	1.3%
Education and Health Services	553,400	553,100	540,300	300	0.1%	13,100	2.4%
Leisure and Hospitality Services	418,600	417,500	408,500	1,100	0.3%	10,100	2.5%
Miscellaneous Services	204,000	203,200	201,300	800	0.4%	2,700	1.3%
Government	724,300	724,100	723,100	200	0.0%	1,200	0.2%
Federal Government	180,400	180,200	179,700	200	0.1%	700	0.4%
State Government	161,600	161,700	160,700	-100	-0.1%	900	0.6%
Local Government	382,300	382,200	382,700	100	0.0%	-400	-0.1%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

From August 2018 to August 2019, Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment was up 36,700 jobs, or 0.9 percent. Over-the-year employment growth in Virginia has been positive for 65 consecutive months and has continued to strengthen over the last several months. In August, the private sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 35,500 jobs, while employment in the public sector increased by 1,200 jobs.

Compared to a year ago, on a **seasonally adjusted** basis, nine of the eleven major industry divisions experienced employment gains, while the other two experienced employment losses. The largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **private education and health services**, up 13,100 jobs (+2.4 percent). The next largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **leisure and hospitality**, up 10,100 jobs (+2.5 percent). **Professional and business services** experienced the third largest over-the-year job gain of 9,700 jobs (+1.3 percent). Other gains were in **manufacturing**, up 6,300 jobs (+2.6 percent); **construction**, up 4,400 jobs (+2.2 percent); **miscellaneous services**, up 2,700 jobs (+1.3 percent); and **total government**, up 1,200 jobs (+0.2 percent). Government saw gains in state government employment (900 jobs) and federal

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government employment (700 jobs) along with a loss in local government employment (-400 jobs). Finance increased by 700 jobs (+0.3%) and **mining** added 300 jobs (+3.8 percent). The largest job loss occurred in **trade and transportation**, down 7,600 jobs (-1.2 percent). The second largest was in **information**, down by 4,200 jobs (-6.3 percent).

Total Nonfarm Employment in Virginia*
Seasonally Adjusted

Area	Employment			July 2019 to August 2019		August 2018 to August 2019	
	August 2019	July 2019	August 2018	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Virginia	4,041,900	4,040,700	4,005,200	1,200	0.0%	36,700	0.9%
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA	78,200	77,800	77,700	400	0.5%	500	0.6%
Charlottesville MSA	120,700	120,900	118,300	-200	-0.2%	2,400	2.0%
Harrisonburg MSA	69,300	69,100	68,200	200	0.3%	1,100	1.6%
Lynchburg MSA	106,000	106,000	104,900	0	0.0%	1,100	1.0%
Northern Virginia MSA	1,502,200	1,501,900	1,489,100	300	0.0%	13,100	0.9%
Richmond MSA	685,800	686,600	680,400	-800	-0.1%	5,400	0.8%
Roanoke MSA	163,900	163,900	161,500	0	0.0%	2,400	1.5%
Staunton-Waynesboro MSA	51,700	51,400	50,700	300	0.6%	1,000	2.0%
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/North Carolina MSA	792,300	796,200	790,300	-3,900	-0.5%	2,000	0.3%
Winchester, Virginia/West Virginia MSA	65,900	66,000	63,800	-100	-0.2%	2,100	3.3%

**Current month's estimates are preliminary.*

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is produced for ten metropolitan areas. In August, four metropolitan areas experienced over-the-month job gains, two were unchanged, and four experienced losses. The largest absolute job gain occurred in Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (+400 jobs). The second largest absolute job gain occurred in Northern Virginia and Staunton with 300 jobs each. The next largest absolute job gain was in Harrisonburg (+200 jobs). The largest job loss occurred in Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News (-3,900 jobs). Others with declines include: Richmond (-800 jobs); Charlottesville, (-200 jobs); and Winchester (-100 jobs).

Over the year, **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment increased in all ten metropolitan areas. The Northern Virginia metropolitan area experienced the largest absolute job gain, up 13,100 jobs (+0.9 percent). Richmond was ranked second, with a gain of 5,400 jobs (+0.8 percent), while Charlottesville and Roanoke were ranked third, with gains of 2,400 jobs each (+2.0 and +1.5 percent, respectively). The other over-the-year job gains occurred in: Winchester (+2,100 jobs); Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News (+2,000 jobs); Harrisonburg and Lynchburg (+1,100 jobs each); Staunton-Waynesboro (+1,000 jobs); and Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (+500 jobs).

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NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

Virginia's **unadjusted** unemployment rate decreased 0.1 percentage point in August to 2.8 percent, which was down 0.3 percentage point from a year ago. Compared to a year ago, the number of unemployed decreased by 11,644, household employment increased by 128,128, and the labor force increased by 116,484. Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national unadjusted rate, which was down 0.2 percentage point in August to 3.8 percent.

Compared to last month, the August **unadjusted** workweek for Virginia's 169,400 manufacturing production workers increased by 1.1 hour to 40.3 hours, average hourly earnings decreased \$0.36 to \$19.48, while average weekly earnings rose \$7.31 to \$785.04. Compared to last August, the unadjusted workweek decreased by 0.6 hour, average hourly earnings increased by \$0.08, and average weekly earnings were lower by \$8.42.

The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of August 11-17, 2019.

The Virginia Employment Commission plans to release the August local area unemployment rates on Wednesday, October 2, 2019. The data will be available on our website, www.VirginiaWorks.com.

The September statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Friday, October 18, 2019.

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